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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/693,878

Examiner

Wasseem H. Hamdan

Applicant(s)

ISSHIKI, NAOHIRO

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/13/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 January 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Fritz Klantschia (Registration No. 50,333) on 02/23/2005.

The application has been amended as follows: claim 1 has been replaced with the following:

-- Claim 1: A printing apparatus comprising:

a discriminating unit adapted to discriminate whether or not an image includes a deteriorated image and detect a degree of deterioration in a background portion of the image;

a processing unit adapted to render, if said discriminating unit discriminates that the image includes a deteriorated image, the image based on the deteriorated image and a non-deteriorated image included in the image, to compress the rendered image causing deterioration to the rendered image; wherein the image, including a foreground portion is subjected to the compression producing an overall degree of deterioration based on the degree of deterioration detected in the background portion, and to save the compressed image; and

a printing unit adapted to print the image processed by said processing unit. --

Examiner's Statement Of Reason For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15 are allowed.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined elements and components for a printing apparatus, including a processing unit adapted to render, if said discriminating unit discriminates that the image includes a deteriorated image, the image based on the deteriorated image and a non-deteriorated image included in the image, to compress the rendered image causing deterioration to the rendered image; wherein the image, including a foreground portion is subjected to the compression producing an overall degree of deterioration based on the degree of deterioration detected in the background portion, and to save the compressed image.

Regarding claims 6, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15, the reason for allowance was documented in the office action mailed on 10/08/2004, in which all the claims were amended in the amendment filed on 01/13/2005.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art of record does not teach all the combined elements, components as discussed above in the "examiner's statement of reasons for allowance".

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

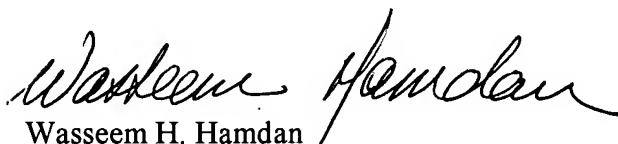
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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wasseem H. Hamdan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2166. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (first Friday off) 6:30 AM- 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Wasseem H. Hamdan

February 23, 2005


ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800